Application No.: 10/074,606 Docket No.: 00124-00830-US

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(currently amended) A method for making a hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam,
 comprising:

- (a) forming a polyurethane foam by mixing together the following components:
  - (i) 100 parts by weight of an ester polyol mixture, wherein at least

    5.0 parts by weight of the ester polyol mixture comprises a

    hydrophilic polyester polyol made from an adipic acid and a

    polyethylene glycol;
  - (ii) from 20.0 to 62.0 parts by weight, based on 100 parts polyol, of an isocyanate, wherein the isocyanate index is 110 or less; and
  - (iii) from 1.0 to 3.0 parts by weight, based on 100 parts polyol, of a silicone stabilizing surfactant; and
- (b) treating the polyurethane foam in a caustic bath to form the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam,

wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has a water absorption rate of at least 20 pounds of water per square foot per minute.

- 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>hydrophilic</u> polyester polyol has a hydroxyl number in the range of 20 to 150.
- 3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>hydrophilic</u> polyester polyol has a hydroxyl number in the range of 50 to 60.

310483v1(CB)

Application No.: 10/074,606 Docket No.: 00124-00830-US

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of toluene diisocyanates, methylene diisocyanates, and mixtures of such isocyanates.

- 5. (canceled)
- 6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising from 1.0 to 5.0 parts by weight, based on 100 parts polyol, of a blowing agent as a component.
  - 7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the blowing agent is water.
- 8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a catalyst selected from the group consisting of: gel catalysts and gas forming catalysts, and mixtures thereof.
- 9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising from 0.5 to 2.0 parts of a blow catalyst and from 0 to 0.3 parts of a gel catalyst.
  - 10. (canceled)
- 11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a double cell-forming additive as a component.
- 12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising an antimicrobial additive as a component.

310483v1(CB)

Application No.: 10/074,606 Docket No.: 00124-00830-US

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the caustic bath is formed as a solution containing sodium hydroxide.

- 14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has pore sizes in the range of 70 to 130 pores per linear inch.
- 15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has pore sizes in the range of 70 to 100 pores per linear inch.
  - 16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the isocyanate index is 100 or less.
- 17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has an instantaneous wet out.
- 18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has a water absorption rate of at least 25 pounds of water per square foot per minute.
- 19. (original) A hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam made according to the method of claim 1.
- 20. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic ester polyurethane foam has a total water absorption of at least about 1037%.

310483v1(CB)

4